

The Usborne Reading Program

First Reading				Young Reading		
Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four	Series One	Series Two	Series Three
<p>Short single narrative followed by reading and comprehension puzzles</p> <p>32 pages</p> <p>up to 150 words</p> <p>10 words per page (1-3 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length on average 2-8 words</p> <p>Themes: Classic tales (e.g. Aesop's Fables) and folktales</p> <p>Grammar: Present and simple past tenses; modal verb: <i>can</i>; comparative adjectives</p> <p>Vocabulary: Simple everyday vocabulary, familiar items</p> <p>Titles Include: The Fox and the Crow The Fox and the Stork The Sun and the Wind (Spring 2008 Catalog page 62.)</p>	<p>Single narrative plus character sheets and/or maps, and puzzles</p> <p>32 pages</p> <p>up to 250 words</p> <p>20 words per page (2-4 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length on average 6-10 words</p> <p>Themes: As Level One, including less familiar folktales</p> <p>Grammar: As Level One plus future; modal verbs: <i>could</i> and <i>must</i>; comparatives and superlatives</p> <p>Vocabulary: More descriptive and evocative vocabulary, always clear in context</p> <p>Titles Include: Clever Rabbit and the Lion, The Dragon and the Phoenix, How Elephants Lost Their Wings, The Little Giraffe. (Spring 2008 Catalog page 62.)</p>	<p>Single narrative with repeated elements, plus character sheets and/or maps, no puzzles</p> <p>48 pages</p> <p>up to 450 words</p> <p>30 words per page (2-5 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length on average 8-12 words</p> <p>Themes: As Level Two plus original fiction and non-fiction (natural history life cycles)</p> <p>Grammar: As Level Two plus present and past perfect; range of modal verbs</p> <p>Vocabulary: Powerful verbs and adjectives, clear in context</p> <p>Titles Include: The Boy Who Cried Wolf, Bugs, The Fish That Talked, Frogs, The Dinosaur Who Lost His Roar, The Enormous Turnip, The Gingerbread Man, The Goose That Laid The Golden Eggs, and more! (Spring 2008 Catalog page 62.)</p>	<p>Single narrative</p> <p>48 pages</p> <p>up to 750 words</p> <p>40 words per page (3-6 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length on average 8-15 words</p> <p>Themes: As Level Three plus classic fairy tales</p> <p>Grammar: Full range of tenses</p> <p>Vocabulary: More exotic elements and controlled use of idiom</p> <p>Titles Include: Baba Yaga The Flying Witch, Butterflies, The Emperor And The Nightingale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Hare and the Tortoise, Penguins, Percy and the Pirates, The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse, The Dragon Painter, Little Red Riding Hood, The Runaway Pancake, The Ugly Duckling, and more!! (Spring 2008 Catalog page 63.)</p>	<p>Several linked stories or one longer narrative in chapters. Direct and indirect speech, intertextual references</p> <p>48 pages</p> <p>1,000-1,500 words</p> <p>50 words per page (up to 10 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length up to 15 words, varied length, but generally short</p> <p>Themes: Fairy tales, fantasy, fiction, non-fiction ("the story of...")</p> <p>Grammar: Past tense narratives; avoid passives, embedded clauses, semicolons and colons</p> <p>Vocabulary: Wide-ranging every day vocabulary</p> <p>Titles Include: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Animal Legends, Chocolate, The Dinosaurs Next Door, Stories of Dinosaurs, Stories of Haunted Houses, and more! (Spring 2008 Catalog page 70.)</p>	<p>Single narrative in chapters. Introduce irony and subplot, allow opportunity for inference and deduction</p> <p>64 pages</p> <p>2,000-2,500 words</p> <p>70 words per page (up to 15 lines)</p> <p>Sentence length up to 20 words, more varied length</p> <p>Themes: As Series One plus adapted classics</p> <p>Grammar: Introduce more challenging sentence structure, including embedded clauses</p> <p>Vocabulary: More challenging, building on Series One; specialist or technical terms explained</p> <p>Titles Include: Around the World in Eighty Days, Black Beauty, Romeo & Juliet, The Stinking Story of Garbage, The Swan Princess, and more! (Spring 2008 Catalog page 71.)</p>	<p>Single narrative in chapters. Assume some relevant background knowledge</p> <p>64 pages</p> <p>4,000-5,000 words</p> <p>120 words per page (20 lines or full page)</p> <p>Sentence length up to 30 words, varied length</p> <p>Themes: History, Biographies, Classics</p> <p>Grammar: Full use of grammatical range, comparable with mainstream contemporary fiction or general journalism</p> <p>Vocabulary: Building on Series Two, may assume knowledge of specialist or technical terms</p> <p>Titles Include: Gladiators, Julius Caesar, Little Women, Titanic, Great Expectations, The Story of Pirates, Oliver Twist, The Story of Slavery, Animals at War, Crusaders, The Vietnam War, Pompeii, Samuari, and more! (Spring 2008 Catalog page 71.)</p>



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